



Jefferson County Current Projects

ConnectKentucky helps Kentuckians use technology as a means to achieve personal transformation. ConnectKentucky's mission focuses on all age groups of citizens across the Bluegrass. It works through the No Child Left Offline (NCLLO) Program to improve the lives of children across the state who are left behind in the digital divide age. NCLLO, with assistance from private partners, corporate foundations and state government, places Internet-ready computers in the hands of economically disadvantaged children to leverage technology for the benefit of Kentucky's children and their futures. No Child Left Offline Program is the most comprehensive initiative of its kind undertaken by any state. The program was specifically developed to help economically disadvantaged populations so they have access to abundant technological resources and can perform basic computing functions similar to their privileged counterparts.

NCLLO supports the use of technology for education and enabling students to access Internet resources. The purpose of the project is to help bridge the digital divide in an urban setting by providing computers to community-centered organizations. Since research suggests that after-school hours are the peak times for risky behaviors such as alcohol and drug use, it is imperative that children are awarded with opportunities to use this time constructively by doing homework, research and exploring their online talents in various organizations while in a safe environment provided by community centers, Boys and Girls Clubs and other similar organizations. Not only are these computers beneficial to students, but also to their families as well as some community-based organizations.

In Louisville and Jefferson County, the No Child Left Offline Program has successfully facilitated cooperation among private partners, corporate foundations and state government to place computers into the hands of underprivileged and disadvantaged individuals. ConnectKentucky's No Child Left Offline Program is meeting the challenge of including these citizens in the digital age through these creative public-private partnerships. No Child Left Offline, as an initiative, is as flexible as today's technology. ConnectKentucky, a subsidiary of Connected Nation, has already initiated and executed a successful pilot project of No Child Left Offline and has delivered approximately 2000 Internet-ready computers to disadvantaged individuals and populations within the state with the generous support of numerous organizations and foundations such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, AT&T, Microsoft, CA, Inc., and Lexmark.

AT & T Foundation and Louisville Metro Council Project

As the project recipient of a grant in the amount of \$150,000 (\$75,000 per year for two years) from AT&T Foundation to deliver computers to charities that support and deliver services to disadvantaged children and their families after school hours in Jefferson County, NCLO is working with AT&T, Louisville Metro Council and Hilliard Lyons to complete the project. NCLO, like the AT&T Foundation, is committed to building common understanding of the importance and relevance of technology, enhancing excellence in underprivileged populations, and enabling individuals to improve their lives through technological exposure, all while reinforcing their commitment to education and society.

Project Specifications

In order to be considered for receiving computers, the Louisville-Jefferson County organizations had to meet the following criteria:

- Hold 501(c)(3) charitable status, be situated in Jefferson County and operate exclusively for the benefit of Jefferson County children and their families.
- Provide services to the community outside school hours, such as evenings and weekends. The organization must have made a demonstrated difference in the lives of the people it serves.
- Serve some portion of the disadvantaged pre-kindergarten through grade 12 population and/or their families.
- Serve at least 15 children from low-income or disadvantaged families.
- Already have established, or plan to establish, broadband (high speed) Internet access in some form.
- Demonstrate that the computers will be used for operational support or for educational support by students.
- For replacement of computers – organizations must demonstrate that they have Pentium II or older models.
- For addition of computers –organization must demonstrate the need for additional computers (to be considered on a case-by-case basis).
- For replacement of computers or addition of computers – organization must demonstrate that facility can accommodate the new machines securely.
- For initial acquisition of computers, organization must have established a plan for the use of computers.

Potential Collaborative Projects

In addition to the NCLC projects currently completed in Louisville-Jefferson County, ConnectKentucky has plans underway for potential collaborative projects in the future:

- Basic computer training for parents at the centers that receive computers.
- Creation of community-centered online portal for specific low-income housing areas within Jefferson County. The portal will consist of educational and informational resources that are valuable to the local community such as applications that engage the recipients in educational exercises, healthy lifestyles, problem solving, civics, geography, finances, and local community activities and events, among others.
- Access to global Internet resources – Computer technology in community-based organizations such as community centers could provide residents with access to information; education and skills training that could open up new job opportunities; and provide them an opportunity to increase their earning potential privileged counterparts who have access to computers after school.
- There are several economic implications of such an initiative including economic growth and the development of a computer-savvy workforce.

Funding Update

- Local ordinance for funding growth of the NCLC Project in Jefferson County was approved by the County's Metro Council on November 8, 2007.
- Councilmembers' donations total \$25,000 for expansion of computer donations to community-based organizations.
- Hilliard Lyons' donation totals \$5,000.

Computer Recipients – Jefferson County

- Portland House - 201 N. 25th Street
- LCCC, Inc. - 1300 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard
- Salvation Army South /Boys and Girls Club - 1010 Beecher Street
- YMCA Berrytown - 1300 Heafer Road
- Lac Viet Academy - 4841 Southside Drive
- West End School - 3628 Virginia Avenue
- Americana Community Center – 4801 Southside Drive